

Frank Stephens
Field Notes, 1928

January 1 - July 28, 1928

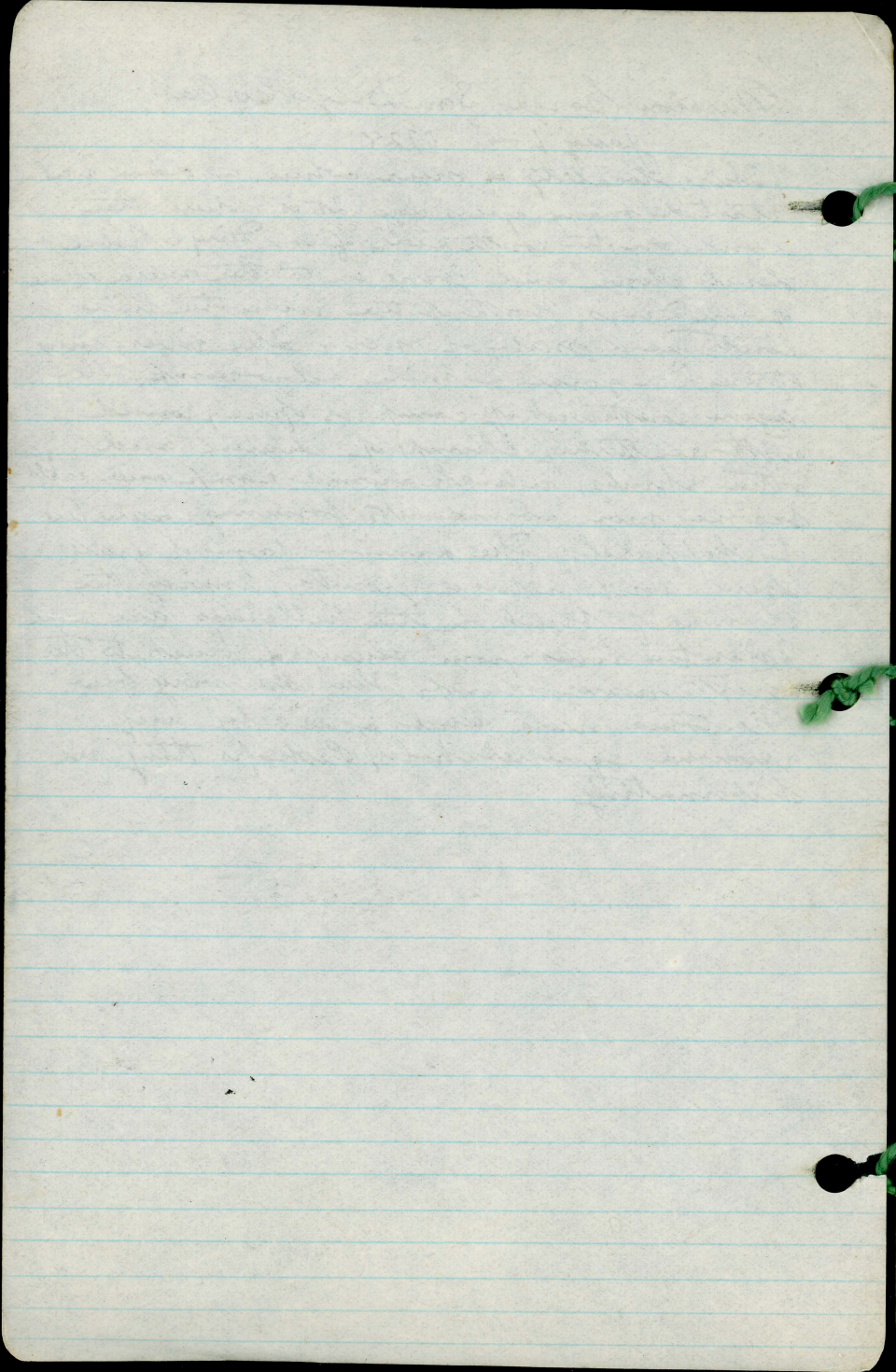
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Mission Gorge, San Diego Co. Cal.

Jan'y 1 - 1928

This locality is near where a dam was started many years ago. It is where the land on the south side of San Diego River levels down and joins on to the mesa back of San Diego. North of the river the hills continue a mile or more. The river runs through a gorge a mile below camp. The region southwest of camp is open ground with scattering clumps of sumac and other shrubs, which around camp and east become more abundant, forming patches of chaparral. The annual forms of grass have 3 or 4 inches of growth. Among the clumps of brush on the hillsides are some *Microtus* runs - from clumps of brush to the next nearer clump. There are very few *Neotoma* nests, and scarcely any ground squirrel holes. Perhaps they are hibernating.



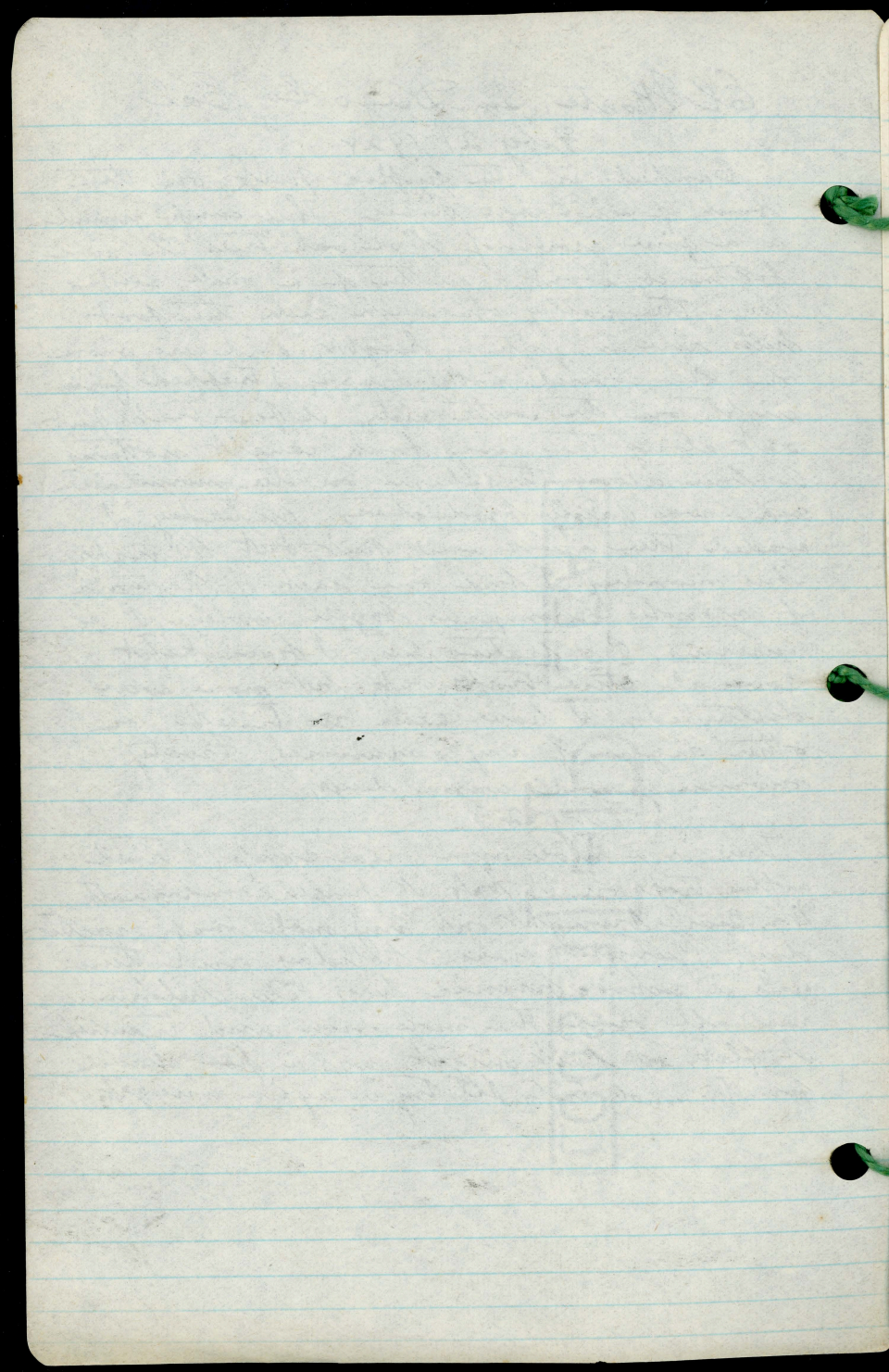
El Monte, San Diego Co., Cal.

Feb 21 1928

Camped in the public park, on the bank of San Diego River. This camp ground is a fine grove of live oak trees. The river bottom is about a quarter of a mile wide. Above the valley on each side the foot hills rise to quite a height, and are more or less covered with brush. I trapped four nights on the south side. A few traps put out along the river bank caught nothing. A line along the flume on the mountain side was fairly productive. Yesterday I waded the river and put out 40 traps. This morning I had one each of Neotoma macrodis, Peromyscus boylii rowleyi, P. insignis, P. l. fraterculus. I have kept several steel traps out, but none were disturbed. I have seen no tracks or other signs of any carnivores. Frosty mornings and warm days.

Feb 23

There is a mole run near camp. I tried gopher traps on it but it passed underneath. Mr. Earl brought out my mole trap yesterday. Yesterday was a holiday and there was a school picnic here. The children ran all over the mole run and tramped it flat, so last night was a poor chance for the mole trap. I'll try it again tonight.



North Guyanaca Mt. S D Co Cal
July 11 1928

I am camped in Harrison Park, near the office. The altitude of camp is about 5000 feet. I came in here day before yesterday to try to get a gray squirrel for the identification case. So far I have found none, though I have taken them near here several times. I have several sets of traps out, some up at the old saw mill, a mile or more from here. The only steel traps disturbed so far caught two California jays. I have seen but one blue-fronted jay and a few California jays. Have seen no woodpecker of any species. Juncos are common, also wrens (*parus*), other birds are more or less plenty. Ground squirrels are abundant. 20 traps set in a fern patch caught four harvest mice last night. I see cottontail tracks in the road near the willow patches along the little stream. There is an occasional *Neotoma* here, and I saw one *Microtus* here. This morning on my way to the old sawmill I saw tracks of a fox, a bobcat and a *Spilogale* in the road. Yesterday I saw a fresh deer track in the road. The season is exceedingly dry here. All animals are ripe and dry. Almost the only bloom is a few shrubs. The stream beds are dry and the springs are low.

North Thompson Mt. 22000 ft
July 11 1958

I am camped in Thompson Park near
the office. The altitude of camp is
about 5000 feet. I came in here day
before yesterday to try to get a good
square for the identification case. So
far I have found none, though I have
taken them over some small things
I have several sets of traps set some
up at the old saw mill, a mile or more
from here. The only steel traps distributed
so far caught two California jays. I
have seen but one blue-fronted jay
and a few California jays. There are
no mosquitoes of any species, however in
evening, also none (phlebotomus) but
birds are more or less plentiful. Several
species are abundant. All traps set in
a few patches caught four house wrens
last night. I see cotton-tail tracks in
the snow near the willow patches along
the little stream. There is no raccoon
here, and I saw one *Thomomys* near
this morning on my way to the old
sawmill. I saw tracks of a fox, a badger
and a skunk in the snow yesterday.
I saw a fresh deer track in the snow.
The stream is remarkably dry here. All
around and up and down almost the
whole stream is a few shrubs. The stream
beds are dry and the springs are dry.

Laguna Mts, San Diego Co. Cal
July 28 1928

I drove up here yesterday hoping to get a gray squirrel and a *Thomomys* chipmunk. About a mile from camp a gray squirrel crossed the road and ran up one of a group of pine trees and across the branches into another. By the time I got my gun and cartridges it had disappeared. I watched for ~~time~~^{it} 15 or 20 minutes but did not see it again. I set two steel traps on a chance to get it, but have not yet. This forenoon I tramped four hours thru the timber to look for squirrels but saw none. I saw two chipmunks, briefly, but failed to get a shot at either. Set some rat traps for them and may succeed. There are no acorns this season and pine cones are scarce. In the trail I saw tracks of a *Spilogale*, a raccoon and a mountain lion. The lion's track was five inches long and nearly as broad. It is very dry here and vegetation is small. A ~~lit~~ light shower fell this afternoon, some thunder.

Expenses, Mt. San Jacinto Co. Cal.
July 28 1928

I drove up the mountain. Hoping to get
a gray squirrel and a Thomson's sheep.
About a mile from camp a gray
squirrel crossed the road and ran up one
of a group of pine trees and across the bushes
into the hills. At the time I got my gun and
went after it. It had disappeared. I watched
for some 12 or 15 minutes but did not see
it again. I set two shot traps in a chance to
get it. It has been out yet. This forenoon I
tramped four hours thru the timber to
look for squirrels but saw none. I saw
two chipmunks, briefly, but failed to get
a shot at either. I saw red traps for
them and may succeed. There are no
squirrels on the trail. I saw tracks of a
chipmunk, a weasel and a mountain
lion. The lion track was five inches
long and nearly as broad. It is a very deep
but not very deep. It is a small, dark
light brown. I fell this afternoon, saw

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